

 Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 3 January 2018		Agenda Item No. 6
Title	Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan	
For further information about this report please contact	Lesley Dury, Committee Services Officer, 01926 456114 or committee@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	N/A	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	28 November 2017	
Background Papers		

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	No
Not applicable.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		
Head of Service		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)		
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Not applicable.		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report informs the Committee of its work programme for 2018 (Appendix 1) and of the current Forward Plan (Appendix 2).
- 1.2 Appendix 3 is a briefing note from the Head of Health & Community Protection about her role on the Enforcement Project Group.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members consider the work programme and agree any changes as appropriate.
- 2.2 The Committee to; identify any Executive items on the Forward Plan which it wishes to have an input before the Executive makes its decision; and to nominate a Member to investigate that future decision and report back to the Committee.
- 2.3 To note the contents of Appendix 3 – Update Enforcement Project Group
- 2.4 Task & Finish Group – Role of Warwick District Council Chairman

To either

- (a) agree that the Task & Finish Group may consist of less than five members; and
- (b) agree the membership of the Task & Finish Group for the Role of the Warwick District Council Chairman;

or

- (c) decide not to proceed with the Task & Finish Group.

3. **Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 The work programme should be updated at each meeting to accurately reflect the workload of the Committee.
- 3.2 Two of the five main roles of overview and scrutiny in local government are to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of Executive decisions and to feed into policy development.
- 3.2 If the Committee has an interest in a future decision to be made by the Executive, or policy to be implemented, it is within the Committee's remit to feed into the process.
- 3.3 The Forward Plan is actually the future work programme for the Executive. If a non-executive member highlighted a decision(s) which is to be taken by the Executive which they would like to be involved in, that member(s) could then provide useful background to the Committee when the report is submitted to the Executive and they are passing comment on it.
- 3.4 At the last meeting of the O&S Committee, Members approved the Scoping Document for the Task & Finish Group on the Role of the Council's Chairman. This Scoping document suggested that the Task & Finish Group should have five Members. The Committee delegated the task of deciding the Membership to

the Chairman of O&S. To-date, only three Councillors have volunteered, so the matter is being brought before O&S for consideration on how to proceed.

- 3.5 At the last meeting of the O&S Committee, Members asked to know about the role of the Head of Health & Community Protection in respect of recommendation 2.9 of the Action Plan on HMOs.

4. Policy Framework

4.1 Fit for the Future (FFF)

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
Impacts of Proposal		
Nil	Nil	Nil
Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
Impacts of Proposal		
Nil	Dialogue between	Nil

	Scrutiny and Executive enables robust decision making and ensures all elements of the proposal in respect of service provision are taken into account.	
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4.2 **Supporting Strategies**

Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies; however, this report is for governance purposes. However, Members need to be mindful of the objectives above, when deciding what topics to add to the Work Programme.

The work carried out by the Committee helps the Council to improve in line with its priority to manage services openly efficiently and effectively.

4.3 **Changes to Existing Policies** - There are no changes to existing policies.

4.4 **Impact Assessments** - There are no new policy changes in respect of Equalities.

5. **Budgetary Framework**

5.1 All work for the Committee has to be carried out within existing resources. Therefore, there is a limit to the time available that officers will have to assist Members, so the Committee may wish to prioritise areas of investigation.

6. **Risks**

6.1 This Committee contributes to the effective minimisation of risk by fulfilling its duties in a timely manner and scrutinising the work undertaken by the Executive.

7. **Alternative Option(s) considered**

7.1 The only alternative option is not to undertake this aspect of the overview and scrutiny function.

8. **Background**

8.1 There are five main roles of overview and scrutiny in local government. These being:

- Holding to account
- Performance management
- Policy review
- Policy development
- External scrutiny

8.2 The pre-decision scrutiny of Executive decisions falls within the role of 'holding to account'. To feed into the pre-decision scrutiny of Executive decisions, the Committee needs to examine the Council's Forward Plan and identify items which it would like to have an impact upon.

- 8.3 The Council's Forward Plan is published on a monthly basis and sets out the key decisions to be taken by the Council in the next twelve months. The Council only has a statutory duty to publish key decisions to be taken in the next four months. However, the Forward Plan was expanded to a twelve month period to give a clearer picture of how and when the Council will be making important decisions.
- 8.4 A key decision is a decision which has a significant impact or effect on two or more wards and/or a budgetary effect of £50,000 or more.
- 8.5 The Forward Plan also identifies non-key decisions to be made by the Council in the next twelve months, and the Committee, if it wishes, may also pre-scrutinise these decisions.
- 8.6 There may also be policies identified on the Forward Plan, either as key or non-key decisions, which the Committee could pre-scrutinise and have an impact upon how these are formulated.
- 8.7 The Committee should be mindful that any work it wishes to undertake would need to be undertaken without the need to change the timescales as set out within the Forward Plan.
- 8.8 At each meeting, the Committee will consider their work programme and make amendments where necessary, and also make comments on specific Executive items, where notice has been given by 9am on the day of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting. The Committee will also receive a report detailing the response from the Executive, on the comments the Committee made on the Executive agenda in the previous cycle.
- 8.9 The Forward Plan is considered at each meeting and allows the Committee to look at future items and become involved in those Executive decisions to be taken, if members so wish.
- 8.10 Appendix 3 – Update Enforcement Project Group
(Recommendation 2.9 – Action Plan for Recommendations made on HMOs)

At the last meeting of the O&S Committee, when considering the progress on the Action Plan for recommendations made on HMOs, the Committee asked that the role of the Head of Health & Community Protection be explained in connection with recommendation 2.9:

<p>2.9 endorses the work by the Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer to review enforcement work across the Council, and recommends that co-ordination across the relevant departments is improved to make full use of HMO licensing and regulatory powers.</p>	<p><i>Report to Executive; Marianne looking at Enforcement across the Council; One Council approach.</i></p> <p>The enforcement project group is made up of Officers from across the Council whose aim is to review procedures and documents involved in an enforcement process to draw consistency as far as is reasonably practicable i.e. Interview under caution documentation. It does not cover delivery of enforcement services.</p> <p>Would O&S want this to be included into the remit of this group? This group was formed to identify enforcement procedural weaknesses and address those by sharing experience etc.</p>
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Appendix 3 is a briefing note from the Head of Health & Community Protection.

8.11 Task & Finish Group – Role of the Warwick District Council’s Chairman

At the last meeting of the O&S Committee, Members approved the Scoping Document for the Task & Finish Group on the Role of the Council’s Chairman. This Scoping document suggested that the Task & Finish Group should have five Members. The Committee delegated the task of deciding the Membership to the Chairman of O&S. Two emails were sent out by Committee Services to Group Leaders requesting volunteers to form the Task & Finish Group. To-date, only three volunteers have come forward: Councillors Ashford, Mrs Knight and Margrave. Councillor Margrave can only serve on the Task & Finish Group providing meetings are held after work hours. Councillor Mrs Knight is a previous Chairman of the Council, so there will be times when she is acting as a witness. The Committee must decide whether or not to proceed with the Task & Finish Group.